

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney (R-FL) issued the following statement in support of a Balanced Budget Amendment, which the House will consider this week, after the national debt exceeded \$15 trillion:

“Our national debt has hit another disgraceful milestone at \$15 trillion – nearly \$48,000 for every citizen of this country. A balanced budget amendment is the solution we need to change the way Washington works and the way it spends your money, so that we can put an end to trillion dollar deficits once and for all.

“Only a balanced budget amendment can force this Congress and future Congresses to live within our means and ensure that we never again face a debt crisis like we do today. Forty-nine states and millions of American families and small businesses balance their budgets – it is past time for the federal government to do the same.”

This week, the House is scheduled to consider a balanced budget amendment that passed the House with 300 bipartisan votes in 1995. H.J. Res. 2, which Rooney cosponsored, would prevent Congress from spending more than it receives in revenues, unless a three-fifths majority votes to allow otherwise. The amendment makes common-sense exceptions for times of war and serious military conflicts. It would require a three-fifths majority vote in both Chambers to raise the debt limit, and requires the President to submit a balanced budget to Congress.

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